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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/566,952	01/22/2007	Xiaozheng Guo	30952/41850	9228
4743 7590 06/18/2008 MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP 233 S. WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 6300 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606			EXAMINER TIEU, BINH KIEN	
			ART UNIT 2614	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/18/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/566,952

Applicant(s)

GUO ET AL

Examiner

BINH K. TIEU

Art Unit

2614

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 7-10, 16 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 6, 11-15 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/21/07 & 1/31/06
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Primary Amendment

1. The Applicants' preliminary amendment filed on 01/30/2006 was entered. As the results, each of claims 1-17 was amended. New dependent claim 18 was added. At this point, claims 1-18 are pending in this Application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown (US. Pat. #: 5,987,107).

Regarding claim 1, Brown teaches a method for realizing charging, comprising the steps of."

a. setting up a mapping relation between a service attribute of a to-be-charged service and a charging rule of the to-be-charged service (col.5, lines 41-67);

b. acquiring the service attribute of the to-be-charged service when the to-be-charged service is needed to be charged (col.6, lines 8-23);

c. acquiring the charging rule of the to-be-charged service through the service attribute of the to-be-charged service, according to the mapping relation between the service attribute and the charging rule (col.6, lines 24-26); and

d. charging the to-be-charged service according to the acquired charging rule of the to-be-charged service (col.6, lines 32-45; also see flow charts in figures 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D).

Regarding claim 2, note identifiers of different call types, e.g., metered call (call type or identifier 15), marine call (call type 14), special service call (call type 16), etc (in figures 5A, 5B, 5C and 5D) and notional charge or normal charge associated with the specific identifier being applied (col.10, lines 1-16).

Regarding claim 3, note col.5, lines 47-51; col.6, lines 8-12 and col.10, lines 27-48.

Regarding claims 5 and 7, note the calling circles in which a group of customers are identified as belonging to a circle in col.5, lines 57-67 as a flag of selective service charging attribute.

Regarding claim 8, note col.4, lines 42-43; col.6, lines 53-60 and col.11, lines 1-7.

Regarding claims 9 and 10, also note in col.5, lines 57-67 that the calling circles in which a group of customers are identified as belonging to a circle in col.5, lines 57-67 as a flag of selective service charging attribute. The call will be charged with lower rate. Thus the lower rate read on a subordinate charging rule. Also, the calls made within the circle are charged at the lower rate read on session quantity rounding policy.

Regarding claim 16, a charging system (i.e., the charging station 18 as shown in figures 1 and 2) comprising:

a module for acquiring a charging rule and a charging processing module, wherein the module for acquiring said charging rule acquires the charging rule corresponding to a to-be-charged service according to a service attribute of the to-be-charged service, and transmits the charging rule to the charging processing module;

wherein the charging processing module charges the to-be-charged service according to the transmitted charging rule (col.5, line 15 through col.8, line 45).

Regarding claim 18, also note in col.5, lines 57-67 that the calling circles in which a group of customers are identified as belonging to a circle in col.5, lines 57-67 as a flag of selective service charging attribute. The call will be charged with lower rate. Thus the lower rate read on a subordinate charging rule. Also, the calls made within the circle are charged at the lower rate read on session quantity rounding policy.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 4, 6, 11-15, 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hanagan et al. (Pub. No.: US 2004/0133487) teaches a system and method for allowing all services to be charged with different rates in according to usage of specific service provided to a client. The system and method further allowing the client to view the results of usages of services as well as rates associated with the services.

Funk et al. (US. Pat. #: 5,185,785) teaches a method and apparatus for recording and rating telecommunication transactions made over a communication network. There are different tables of services provided by a carrier in associated with service charging rates. A user is charged for his or her telecommunication service based on a unique code associated with the carrier who provided the service.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh K. Tieu whose telephone number is (571) 272-7510 and E-mail address: BINH.TIEU@USPTO.GOV.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (571) 272-7499 and **IF PAPER HAS BEEN MISSED FROM THIS OFFICIAL ACTION PACKAGE, PLEASE CALL CUSTOMER SERVICE FOR THE SUBSTITUTIONS OR COPIES.**

Any response to this action should be mailed to:
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Art Unit: 2614

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/BINH K. TIEU/
Primary Examiner
Technology Division 2614

Date: June 2008